

p.1
DUXBURY REPORTER December 1, 2006

Search for missing boy has happy ending

Civilian search
and rescue team
to be formed

By Andria Farrell
ANFARREL@CNC.COM

DUXBURY —The search for a 12-year old boy missing for approximately 12 hours this past Sunday evening into Monday has prompted Police Chief Mark DeLuca to put together a civilian search and rescue team. The volunteer team would assist the Police Department and receive professional training from the department.

Sam Dubin went missing from his home Sunday evening and was found safe at a house on Lover's Lane Monday morning.

The Duxbury police, fire department, harbormasters department and state police were on the scene of the boy's house at approximately 12:30 a.m.

Monday morning, after receiving the 911 call from his father, DeLuca said.

Until daylight came, the search was limited to the town departments plus a state police helicopter that used a thermal imaging camera to detect the heat from bodies on the ground. The original search began at the boy's father home, which is surrounded by cranberry bogs. The State Police helicopter and thermal camera was used to search the ground and bogs, after a negative result came from the camera DeLuca called for more manpower.

Upon sun up, DeLuca called in help from the Metro Law Enforcement Council, which includes 49 regional cities and towns in the area. Each city and town participating in the Metro Council pledges a 10 percent commitment from the department to pay the overtime for officers going out to assist other communities.

The search team consisted of 70 law enforcement personnel from different

towns, State Police, Environmental Police, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, three ATVs, four K-9 units, and one helicopter.

Searchers also focused on a home once owned by the boy's mother on Lover's Lane. According to DeLuca, as the officers were en route there the boy called his father to let him know where he was. Police located the boy at the Lovers Lane location where he was checked out by local paramedics and found unharmed and safe. It appears that the boy spent the night there, DeLuca said.

It is believed that the boy ran away because he was to return back to school the following day after some absence and had some phobias and stress about returning, DeLuca said.

Many Duxbury police officers and firefighters volunteered their own time to aid the search along with many residents. The police received an outpouring of calls from the community offer-

ing assistance. Residents brought coffee to the officers who had been on post though out the night.

In a statement released by DeLuca he wrote, "The tragedy of 911 taught people first hand the frustration of feeling helpless. Monday I felt an urgency from many residents, the need to get involved and that is totally Duxbury."

In announcing his plans for the new search and rescue team, DeLuca wrote, "I believe that a police department is only as effective as the support it receives from the community." He continued "There is nothing more important than a strong partnership between the police department and the community it serves. The behavior of our residents in town is again evident to me how lucky and proud I am to head your police department."

Interested persons should e-mail Lt. Lewis Chubb at lwchubb@duxburypolice.org.